

In The Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] An improved active night vision system is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~[FGT 199-1100]~~ No. 6,429,429 entitled "A Night Vision System Utilizing A Diode Laser Illumination Module And A Method Related Thereto," which is herein incorporated by reference. That application describes an active night vision system that uses a NIR diode laser to illuminate the region forward of the vehicle and a CCD camera to process and display images within the illuminated region. Because NIR light is invisible to the human eye, the laser light can be formed into a high beam pattern to illuminate potential hazards without blinding oncoming vehicle operators.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The illumination subsystem 13 includes a NIR light source 14, beam-forming optics 16, and a coupler 17 between the two. In a preferred embodiment, the light source is a NIR diode laser; the beam forming optics are comprised of a thin-sheet optical element followed by a holographic diffuser, whose combined purpose is to form a beam pattern in the direction of arrow A comparable to the high-beam pattern used for normal vehicle headlamps; and the coupler between them is a fiber-optic cable, as described in U.S. ~~Application Serial No. [FGT docket no. 199-1100]~~ Patent No. 6,429,429 entitled "A Night Vision System Utilizing A Diode Laser Illumination Module And A Method Related Thereto." The illumination subsystem illuminates the driving environment without blinding drivers in approaching vehicles, since the NIR light is not visible to the human eye.